



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

### TERMS OF REFERENCE – INTER-MUNICIPAL ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (“COMMITTEE”)

A COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE *ACCESSIBLE BC ACT*

**ENDORSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON:**

June 21, 2023  
Amended October 8, 2024 by Committee & Staff

**CONDUCT AND APPLICATION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE:**

The conduct and application of rules and procedure for the Committee shall be in accordance with Regional District of North Okanagan Procedures Bylaw and all Regional District policies.

**VISION STATEMENT:**

Our vision is that the Regional District of North Okanagan and its member municipalities will become a safe, tolerant, and inclusive place for people of all ages and abilities to live, work, and play.

**PURPOSE:**

To promote initiatives that foster active living, and the full and equal participation of people with disabilities in their communities by assisting the RDNO and member municipalities in identifying, removing and preventing barriers to individuals in or interacting with the RDNO and member municipalities.

**DEFINED RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- To make recommendations to the RDNO Board of Directors and member municipal Councils to consider the establishment, development and maintenance of equitable policies, services and facilities for persons with disabilities, including, but not limited to: transportation; housing; employment; education; and recreation.
- To consult with the RDNO and member municipalities with respect to developing, reviewing, and updating an Accessibility Plan.
- To provide an opportunity for public input on accessibility issues affecting people with disabilities.
- To identify barriers to services and facilities, including communication, encountered by people with disabilities, and recommend to local governments and agencies to address them.
- To identify funding sources for accessibility measures.
- To advise on priorities and implementation of programs related to accessibility.

<p><b>DEFINITIONS:</b></p>	<p>As defined in the <i>Accessible British Columbia Act</i>:</p> <p>“barrier” is anything that hinders the full and equal participation in society of a person with an impairment. Barriers can be caused by environments, attitudes, practices, policies, information, communications or technologies, and can be affected by intersecting forms of discrimination.</p> <p>“disability” means an inability to participate fully and equally in society as a result of the interaction of an impairment and a barrier.</p> <p>“impairment” includes a physical, sensory, mental, intellectual or cognitive impairment, whether permanent, temporary or episodic.</p>
<p><b>COMPOSITION:</b></p>	<p>The Committee will be comprised of the following, up to a maximum of 7 voting members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Residents and/or agency representatives from the North Okanagan who, through knowledge and/or experience have interest or experience in advocating for people with disabilities.</li> </ul> <p>At least half of the members must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Persons with disabilities, or</li> <li>– Individuals who support, or are from organizations that support, persons with disabilities</li> </ul> <p>At least one of the members must identify as an Indigenous person.</p> <p>The Committee, based on applications received, must reasonably reflect the diversity of persons in BC.</p> <p>The Committee may also include non-voting members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– One staff representative from the RDNO</li> <li>– One political representative from the RDNO</li> <li>– Others as required</li> </ul>
<p><b>APPOINTMENTS:</b></p>	<p>Voting members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. Non-voting political members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.</p>
<p><b>CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR:</b></p>	<p>The Committee shall, at its first meeting elect a Chair and Vice Chair from amongst its members who shall serve until the end of that calendar year. In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Committee members present may elect, from among themselves, an Acting Chair for that meeting.</p>
<p><b>QUORUM:</b></p>	<p>A quorum consists of the majority of voting members.</p>
<p><b>TERM:</b></p>	<p>Members shall serve on the Committee for a three year term.</p>
<p><b>MEETINGS:</b></p>	<p>Once the Accessibility Plan has been completed, the Committee will meet twice a year, or upon request of the Committee Chair, or as needed.</p> <p>Notice of meetings will be distributed to members electronically and posted on the RDNO website.</p>

<b>REPORTING:</b>	The Committee is an advisory Committee established under Part 3, Section 9 of the <i>Accessible British Columbia Act</i> . Recommendations from the Committee shall be referred to the RDNO Board of Directors and member municipal Councils for consideration.
<b>REMUNERATION:</b>	Members shall not receive any remuneration for services, however, a member shall be reimbursed for any reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred on behalf of and previously approved by the Board of Directors, including mileage costs to and from Inter-Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings.
<b>OTHER:</b>	For clarity, these Terms of Reference do not delegate any authority or corporate powers to the Committee.